

Brisbane, Qld.  
August 29, 1957

*Geobstern*

Hi Cliff:

Esther and I are just about finishing the lecture-tour segment of our Fulbright, and are looking forward to settling in Melbourne this weekend to begin more serious business. We'll be down here until early or mid-November. My main objective was to familiarize myself with the techniques and points of view that have been developed by Burnet and his school, and even while travelling, we have had a fruitful and interesting time. (Not to mention that we spent last weekend at Heron Isl. -- a rather rough 'resort' at the southern extremity of the Great Barrier Reef.)

Talking to various people, it dawned on me that I had not properly appreciated the spread of various animal viruses from cell to cell, without their appearing in the intercellular space, or thereby being subject to neutralization by antiserum. This is especially prominent with the poxviruses (e.g. vaccinia or ectromelia) where infected membranes or tissue cultures may show negligible amounts of free virus, until the cells are groundup. Isn't this a worthwhile analogy to the various 'contact transformations', as in your inductions or in the contagious transfer of F in coli?

This is hardly a novel idea; what had not sunk in deeply enough before was the methodological use that might be made of the parallelism: for example, in the use of the virus-transmission system (in the presence of neutralizing antiserum to study the conditions of contact transfer. More immediately, doesn't it suggest an approach to your problem of determining the role that cytoplasmic process may play in the inductive transfer through thin membranes? I imagine there would be no great difficulty in finding viruses--probably just ectromelia or some neurovaccinial variants-- that would grow in your inducing cells. I wish I could think of something comparable for coli.

CONTINUATION

THE JOHN CURTIN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

I understand that Art Kornberg was proffered and has accepted the Biochemistry job at Stanford; and that Charlie Yanofsky is joining Biology. Wonderful-- and just some more incentives for us a propos Berkeley (an issue that will have to wait till next spring to be settled one way or the other).

Yours,

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